

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00880 281345Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----281347Z 115375 /40

O 281320Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6171  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0880

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SF WA PFOR  
SUBJ: NANGOLO CASE

REF: CAPE TOWN 0874 AND 0861

1. I HAD FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH FON MIN BOTHA THIS NOON ABOUT THE NANGOLO CASE TO SEE IF THERE WERE SOME WAY TO OBTAIN STAY OF EXECUTION. BOTHA DESCRIBED AT LENGTH DIFFICULT CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER YESTERDAY IN WHICH HE WENT ALL OUT IN ARGUING FOR STAY BUT FOUND THE PM UNYEILDING. BOTHA SAID NOT ONLY HAD HE MADE THE POINT I RAISED (I.E. THAT EXECUTION OF NANGOLO MIGHT CREATE ATMOSPHERE WHICH COULD SERIOUSLY COMPLICATE PURSUIT OF A SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA AND MAKE PROJECTED VISIT OF CONTACT GROUP DURING WEEK OF JUNE 6 INAUSPICIOUS) BUT HAD GONE FURTHER WITH VORSTER TO SUGGEST THAT EXECUTION MIGHT BE CONTRARY TO INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING ALREADY REACHED WITH CONTACT GROUP ON PRISONERS AND MIGHT LEAD TO COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF NAMIBIA TALKS. BOTHA  
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INDICATED THAT VORSTER WOULD NOT BUDGE, ARGUING: (A) THE EVIDENCE CLEARLY SHOWED NANGOLO AND HIS COMPANION HAD DEFECTED FROM A SWAPO CAMP IN ANGOLA AND ADMITTED TO NOT BEING SWAPO MEMBERS; (B) THEY COMMITTED ACTS OF ROBBERY AND MURDER IN COLD BLOOD; (C) JUDICIAL REVIEW HAD BEEN COMPLETE AND THOROUGH; (D) STATE PRESIDENT HAD SIGNED THE NECESSARY PAPERS AND THERE WAS NO WAY TO REVERSE THIS ACTION; (E) SWAPO REALLY

HAD NO INTEREST IN THESE DEFECTORS, WOULD HAVE SHOT THEM IF THEY COULD HAVE FOUND THEM, AND NOW IS USING NANGOLO CASE IN EFFORT TO DERAIL FIVE-POWER TALKS. BOTHA SAID THAT FRANKLY THERE WAS NOTHING MORE HE COULD DO BUT RESIGN AND THAT WOULD NOT ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING. HE HAD ALREADY INCURRED THE DISPLEASURE OF THE PM BY PUSHING HIM AS HARD AS HE HAD.

2. BOTHA SUGGESTED THAT WHERE HE HAD FAILED, PERHAPS A CALL FROM ME DIRECT TO THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT SUCCEED IN GETTING HIM TO RECONSIDER. I TELEPHONED VORSTER AT HIS SON-IN-LAW'S FARM IN THE ORANGE FREE STATE BUT COULD NOT BUDGE HIM. IN FACT HE SAID THAT HE TOOK IT AMISS THAT THE FIVE CG GOVERNMENTS WERE PRESSING HIM ON THIS MATTER. HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECT THAT NANGOLO'S EXECUTION COULD HAVE ON THE NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT TALKS WAS THAT IF IT HAS SUCH A RESULT, "THEN SO BE IT". GIVEN THIS REACTION, I DO NOT SEE THAT WE CAN DO ANYTHING FURTHER TO TURN THE PRIME MINISTER AROUND.BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXECUTIONS, TERRORISTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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